

CJCC

Newsletter

A quarterly publication to foster communications and promote coordination within the criminal justice system of Northwest Ohio

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New Warrant Block

by Theresa Gabriel, Clerk of Toledo Municipal Court

After years of progressively responsible positions in both the public and private sectors culminating in becoming Director of the Department of Recreation and Forestry, I became Clerk of Toledo Municipal Court in January of this year. Bringing with me extensive managerial and administrative experience I undertook the day-to-day responsibilities of the office and

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to

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week

realize the value and sophistication of the recently implemented Integrated Criminal Justice Computer System. This joint venture between the City, County, CCNO and outlying Law Enforcement Agencies was initiated and overseen by the CJCC. Its NORIS component completed the final implementation in 2002. It is a long sought testament to regional cooperation.

The flexibility allowed by this application is endless and through the foresight of the CJCC requiring ownership of the system versus licensing it from a vendor, future enhancements will continue to aid criminal justice agencies. I was very pleased to have recently worked hand in hand with the Municipal

Court Judges to implement an enhancement to the computer system that is designed to collect delinquent fines and costs on Criminal and Traffic Court Cases. We began the process by determining the cases on which money was due from present all the way back to 1978. It was determined that millions of dollars were owed. The public was advised via press releases

of March 24th was a last chance to come into court and settle any outstanding debt without penalty. Names and cases were also posted on the Clerk's Website.

On April 7th the first set of warrants blocks were electronically sent to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The BMV notifies all parties involved that they will not be able to renew their license or obtain plates until all monies owed to the Clerk's Office has been paid and a clearance has been issued.

In order to manage the influx of people at both the Clerk's and the BMV Offices, the blocks are designed to be sent on a monthly basis until all people owing money have been reported. It is expected that this will

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Theresa Gabriel, Clerk of Toledo Municipal Court

be an on-going process for the next 8 months. This has resulted in the receipt of previously uncollected revenue amounting to \$54,408 in the first five weeks of the program. It was formerly unheard of to design, develop and implement a system of this complexity involving numerous components of State and Local Government in a period of weeks. If we had not been in possession of the

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leading edge technology that we currently use, a project such as this would have taken months, possibly a year or more to complete. Following the lead of my predecessors, it is my intent to continue to expand the benefits of our existing technology in order to enhance the timely availability of accurate information critical to the adjudication of criminal justice and maximize the benefit of funding coming from the public we serve.

Grants Update

by Ann Bowland, Grants Manager

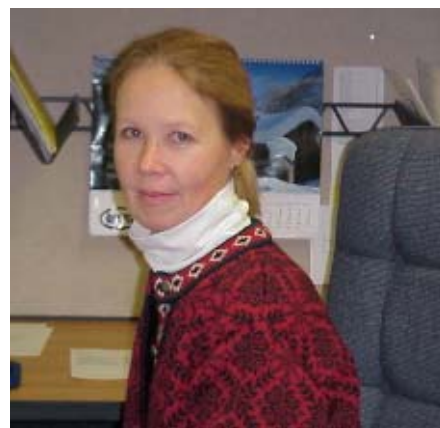
The last three months have been busy ones at the CJCC. The local response to the FY2003 Byrne Memorial Program solicitation was overwhelming to say the least. With 24 project proposals received, we may have set a local record. Lucas County had \$668,375.65 in federal funds to allocate and received requests totaling \$1,323,820. Later this fall OCJS will issue the awards to

the projects approved for funding. These projects will start January 1, 2004. Visit the CJCC website at <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/cjcc/> to learn more about the local projects recommended for FY2003 funding.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) proposals were due on June 15. Eleven projects have submitted their applications for FY2003 funding. Project presentations were held on July 1. Committee recommendations for VAWA funding will also be listed on the CJCC website in late July. Projects approved for funding will begin January 1, 2004.

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After the local funding plans have been submitted to the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), staff will spend the rest of the summer visiting Byrne, Violence Against Women (VAWA) and



Ann Bowland, Grants Manager

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) projects and conducting on-site grant monitoring. Notice of FY2003 funding for JJDP Title II block grants should be available later this summer.

From time to time additional special purpose or state set-aside funding initiatives are also available. Watch the OCJS web site at <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/> click on "Funding Opportunities", and then click on "Current Solicitations".

Relocation of NORIS Data Center

by John Allen, Operations Manager



John Allen, Operations Manager

The NORIS Data Center is now located at One Government Center in downtown Toledo, but we can hardly describe this as a mere address

change. Manufacturing a new site to accommodate the NORIS computer equipment, and physically getting the equipment from our old Collingwood location, was a research endeavor, a learning experience, a cooperative effort with our users, a modernization, and of course, a challenge. Now that the move is complete, it would seem remiss if, from a personal point of view, we did not also consider it a celebration of people.

The formal planning and research began in August of 2002 and the

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physical move commenced this past May. The NORIS staff was on constant alert for fear that "Murphy's Law" situations would creep in and remarkably so, they never did. I firmly believe this less of a stroke of luck, than a result of a high level of cooperation from our users and careful decision-making by the NORIS staff.

The first stage of the relocation was to prepare the new site which involved establishing proper electrical needs, satisfactory air conditioning, and fire prevention security. Extensive

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cleaning and physical security were also part of this preparation.

Once the site was ready, the NORIS Network Group began setting up the cabling and network structure that would allow us to attach all of the NORIS equipment to the network at One Government Center. We were then able to begin moving pieces of equipment.

Although the physical relocation was actually an extended and gradual series of events, the largest physical move occurred on Sunday, May 25, 2003. Work that day, unfortunately, required us to disrupt all connections to the NORIS network for an extended period of

time. Rebuilding a data center from scratch requires many hours of moving, re-cabling, computer configuration, and elbow grease.

Over the next few weeks, final cleaning, room preparation and furniture placement has been completed, and the NORIS Operations staff is now ready to serve!!!!!!

While all of the above was accomplished under rigid timelines and budget concerns, there is one component that falls outside of these two constraints, and that is the people who were involved.

First, we are most appreciative of the cooperation and information we

received from the NORIS users. The relocation sometimes distracted us from our usual duties in serving agencies and also necessitated work disruptions. The CJCC staff was able to approach agencies for information regarding time schedules and business needs during the relocation project and we are very grateful for the help we received.

In addition, the NORIS staff contributed many hours of planning and labor and not always tirelessly. This project was certainly a complex undertaking and the efforts of all who performed this operation, while immeasurable, are certainly praiseworthy.

Technology Partnering

by Pat Wright, NORIS Director



Pat Wright, NORIS Director

Two new applications were rolled out in the past six months. As previously discussed by Doug Kemp in the newsletter, an application that supports the Toledo Municipal Court's Housing Court is receiving its final touches. The Housing application, has received very favorable comments from the users. On June 2nd, the Probation Department for Toledo Municipal Court also went live with a new Probation application. The Probation system will be integrated

into the other NORIS application most importantly with the criminal history query. Meaning, terms and conditions of a Toledo Municipal Court probationer will be included in the response when performing a records check.

Three other projects are proceeding as scheduled too. The development of a Property Room Management system is well underway for the Toledo Police Department. A system to support Ohio Incident Based Reporting (OIBRS) data collection and reporting is on schedule. The initial web

portal features of the OIBRS project have been installed and users have begun testing and providing comments. The next release of the portal will allow review and real-time inspection and analysis of incident reports. If you wish to review the

web portal, please contact the Data Center to be assigned a user-id and password. A key component of the OIBRS project just underway, is connecting the OIBRS database to the field reporting software soon to be available on the Lucas County mobile data computers.

Another area under review for feasibility is a wireless extension of the NORIS desktop using open system standards. This would allow a device equipped with the proper type antenna to log-on to the system and in the field receive the same functionality as if they were connect to the LAN

desktop. A small, non-scientific, pilot of the project was successful, but issues relative to coverage and device roaming still need to be explored further. We will continue to keep you updated on technology happenings in criminal justice.

"If you wish to view the web portal, please contact the Data Center"



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Executive Director's Desk

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. I joined the organization on June 23 from Perot Systems Corporation, where I served as a Senior Specialist. In 2001 Perot Systems performed a technical analysis of the Northwest Ohio Regional Information System, which gave me an opportunity to become familiar with the NORIS operation and personnel.

I specifically want to thank the selection committee and the CJCC Board for the vote of confidence in selecting me as the new Executive Director. I also want to recognize Barbara Huy for her excellent work in keeping this organization moving forward during the transition between directors. Her talent and dedication are visible to me every day, as I begin the process of taking responsibility for the operation of the CJCC. Thank you Barbara for a job well done.

My vision for the CJCC is to become the "Technology Partner for Government in Northwest Ohio." We will achieve this vision through the use of a business model for the operation. This will include the development of a continuous improvement operating system, with measurables in place throughout the organization. We will maintain a customer focus and improve our cost performance by spreading our fixed costs over a larger basis. I have every confidence that we will achieve this vision and I am enthusiastically looking forward to implementing an action plan supporting it.

This quarter, our cover article by Theresa Gabriel, Clerk of Toledo Municipal Court, explains how a new NORIS application helps collect delinquent fines. Also, articles on technology partnering and the CJCC relocation help round out this issue. I hope you find this interesting reading.

Mike Pevets, Executive Director

